

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 6-8 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1 and 5 are amended. Accordingly, claims 1-5 are pending and under consideration.

Provisional Rejection of Claims 1-8

The Office Action provisionally rejects claims 1-8 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-12 of copending Application No. 10/582,130.

The Office Action provisionally rejects claims 1-8 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-11 of copending Application No. 10/582,160.

Claims 6-8 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

A Terminal Disclaimer is concurrently filed herewith.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, and 8 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 4, 6, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by KR 2003-0042505 to AN. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 6 and 8 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

A washing machine as recited in claim 1 obtains sufficient antibiotic and bacterial effects because water is retained for a sufficient time in the silver solution supply device for performing the electrolysis of silver and being mixed with silver ions and detergents by the "current speed reduction member" of claim 1.

AN does not disclose, teach, or suggest, "a detergent supply device connected with the silver solution supply device to directly supply water containing the silver solution generated from the silver solution device to the tub, wherein the silver solution supply device includes a housing provided with an inlet and an outlet," and "the outlet of the housing, which is connected to the detergent supply device," as recited in independent claim 1. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from the cited reference.

Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1 and include all of the subject matter of claim 1. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 3 and 4 are patentably distinguishable from the cited reference.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by KR 2002-0012368 to Kim (hereinafter referred to as "KR '368"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 6, 7, and 8 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

KR '368 does not disclose, teach, or suggest, "a detergent supply device connected with the silver solution supply device to directly supply water containing the silver solution generated from the silver solution device to the tub, wherein the silver solution supply device includes a housing provided with an inlet and an outlet," and "the outlet of the housing, which is connected to the detergent supply device," as recited in independent claim 1.

For example, although KR '368 shows detergent dissolvers 23 and 24 in Figure 2, these detergent dissolvers are not connected with the silver solution supply device to directly supply water containing the silver solution generated from the silver solution device to the tub. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from the cited reference.

Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1 and include all of the subject matter of claim 1. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 3 and 4 are patentably distinguishable from the cited reference.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 2 and 7 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 2 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over AN in view of WO 03/057970 to Kim et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Kim"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 7 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

AN and Kim, taken separately or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest, "a detergent supply device connected with the silver solution supply device to directly supply water

containing the silver solution generated from the silver solution device to the tub, wherein the silver solution supply device includes a housing provided with an inlet and an outlet," and "the outlet of the housing, which is connected to the detergent supply device," as recited in independent claim 1.

Kim does not cure the deficiencies of AN. For example, although Kim shows a detergent container 100 in Figures 3 and 4, this detergent container is not connected with the silver solution supply device to directly supply water containing the silver solution generated from the silver solution device to the tub. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the subject matter of claim 1. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 2 is also patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claim 5 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over AN in view of KR '368. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

AN and KR '368, taken separately or in combination, do not disclose, teach, or suggest, "a detergent supply device connected with the silver solution supply device to directly supply water containing the silver solution generated from the silver solution device to the tub, wherein the silver solution supply device includes a housing provided with an inlet and an outlet," and "the outlet of the housing, which is connected to the detergent supply device," as recited in independent claim 1.

KR'368 does not cure the deficiencies of AN. For example, as indicated above, although KR '368 shows detergent dissolvers 23 and 24 in Figure 2, these detergent dissolvers are not connected with the silver solution supply device to directly supply water containing the silver solution generated from the silver solution device to the tub. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Claim 5 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the subject matter of claim 1. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 5 is patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claim 5 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over KR '368. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

KR '368 does not disclose, teach, or suggest, "a detergent supply device connected with the silver solution supply device to directly supply water containing the silver solution generated from the silver solution device to the tub, wherein the silver solution supply device includes a housing provided with an inlet and an outlet," and "the outlet of the housing, which is connected to the detergent supply device," as recited in independent claim 1 as indicated above.

For example, as indicated above, although KR '368 shows detergent dissolvers 23 and 24 in Figure 2, these detergent dissolvers are not connected with the silver solution supply device to directly supply water containing the silver solution generated from the silver solution device to the tub. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from the cited reference.

Claim 5 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the subject matter of claim 1. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 5 is patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Summary

Claims 1-5 are pending and under consideration. It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references taken alone or in combination disclose the present claimed invention

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: May 4, 2010

By: Paul F. Daebeler
Paul F. Daebeler
Registration No. 35,852

1201 New York Avenue, N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501